
We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.
— Walt Disney

Aseema Annual Report
2016–17





Tracing the Past

2017 – A milestone year that marks the completion of 20 years of Aseema in serving the cause of education. As we step into the next decade, we trace our journey to present a glimpse of our past. We have truly come a long way, from our first batch of 18 children in 1997 studying in one small classroom in Bandra, to 3715 children through our interventions in Mumbai, Igatpuri and Kanpur. Aseema started with the idea of reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalized children who did not have access to quality education. Over the years, we have worked towards making quality education a reality for these children. Our programmes are anchored on the pillars of building a nurturing environment for learning, adopting excellent teaching-learning methodologies and fostering community partnerships. Each of these contributes towards ensuring our children become responsible citizens of tomorrow. As we watched our children grow, their quest for learning and perseverance kept us moving forward to reach greater heights. Together we embrace every challenge with a smile and plenty of hope for a brighter tomorrow.

- 1997 Establishment of Aseema's Education Centre in Mumbai
- 1998 Enrolling our first batch of 18 students in school
- 2000 Setting up of Aseema's first Montessori Centre
- 2001 Adoption of the Pali Chimbai Municipal School (PCMS), Bandra West, Mumbai
- 2002 Aseema's first major Art Exhibition at The Harmony Show
- 2003 Aseema produces animated film *Rajju & I* to spread awareness on Child Rights
- 2004 Aseema formulates a business plan for the sale of Aseema products leading to the establishment of its Product Division
- 2005 Aseema trains Anganwadi teachers in the villages of Igatpuri. Received National Award for *Rajju & I* at the hands of President - APJ Abdul Kalam
- 2007 Commencement of the Pre-Primary Section at Santacruz (W) Municipal School (SMS), Mumbai. Set up Aseema Sitabai Kavji Mengal Anganwadi, Jambhewadi, Igatpuri
- 2008 Commencement of the Secondary Section at SMS
- 2010 Adoption of the Kherwadi Municipal School (KMS), Bandra East, Mumbai. Commencement of Project Ringtones at PCMS.
- 2011 Aseema's first batch of Standard X graduate from SMS. Commencement of Pre-Primary Section at Aseema's Education Centre, Igatpuri
- 2012 First batch of students pass the Level A examination of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) at Aseema's Education Centre, Igatpuri. Commencement of Music Programme at SMS
- 2013 Aseema awarded Excellent Management of an NGO by Rotary Club of Bombay West for two consecutive years.
- 2014 Conception of the *How To Live Programme*
- 2015 Commencement of Construction of Primary and Secondary Sections at Igatpuri
- 2016 101 students enroll with the Aseema Alumni Programme
- 2017 Aseema completes 20 years of providing high quality value based education

Learning and Creativity

Recognising the urgency for a stimulating learning environment in 2001, we began our journey of providing high quality, value based education at the Pali Chimbai Municipal School under an Adoption Programme of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). Today 646 children from Standards I – VIII come to school to learn and seek answers. At the school, every child is encouraged to develop a life-long love for learning, confidence and leadership skills in an environment that values every girl and boy. The Activity Based Learning (ABL) Approach followed at the school enabled each child to pursue their curiosities and interests. Classrooms reflecting children's interests, learning styles and cultures, allowed each child to develop their own ideas, express their feelings, make choices and above all, grow to be creative thinking individuals. A stimulating learning environment also helped us achieve an average attendance of 85%.

To inculcate a love for learning, creativity and a capacity for analytical thinking, the students were exposed to various activities ranging from book review sessions to building entrepreneurial skills, classical Indian dance to western classical music, work experience, art, sports and computers. Each activity provided scope to develop social skills, a sense of cooperation, team-spirit and self-discipline. The Entrepreneur Programme with students from R. N. Podar School gave our children a glimpse into entrepreneurship. 20 students were mentored to build leadership, communication, critical thinking and creative skills that will help them create a positive and sustainable impact on society.

The Mehli Mehta Music Foundation's (MMMMF) weekly music classes took the children on an enriching musical journey of singing, listening and appreciating the world of music. 60 children took part in MMMMF's annual Singing Tree Concert at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA). It helped them discover the joy of singing in groups and at the same time helped them find their individual voices. Their parents were delighted to attend the concert and see their children perform together with children from other schools like Udayachal High School and St. Stephen's School.

Project Ringtones – the Computer Language Programme, entered its sixth year with 110 computer geeks from Standard V - VII creating animated stories and multi-level games. It has helped them learn to collaborate with others, develop problem-solving skills, and persist through difficult tasks. It has also given them an opportunity to learn programming concepts, computational thinking and gain fluency in digital citizenship.



The Dosi Vakeel Summer Camp remained fresh in the minds of one and all. Adopting Aseema's holistic approach, 80 children were guided through a range of activities such as Story Telling, Inspiring Movies, Cyclothon, Sports, Art & Craft, Cooking and Gardening. The Camp ended on a high note, marking the end of yet another year of learning and seeking answers.

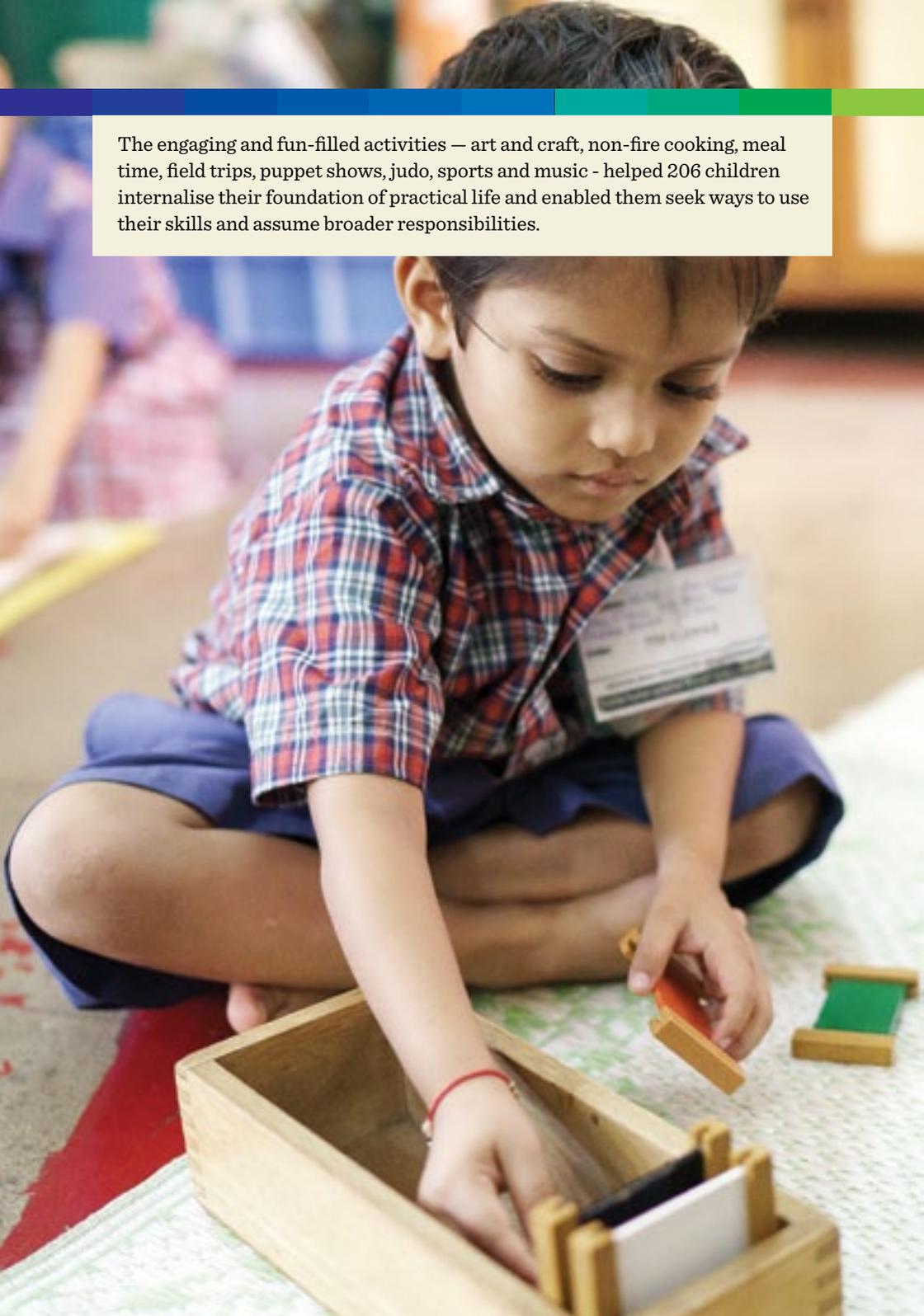
The engaging and fun-filled activities — art and craft, non-fire cooking, meal time, field trips, puppet shows, judo, sports and music - helped 206 children internalise their foundation of practical life and enabled them seek ways to use their skills and assume broader responsibilities.

Peace and Tranquility

As you walk into the Pre-Primary Section at the Santacruz (W) Municipal School which Aseema adopted in 2007, you will see our tiny tots from 2.5 to 5 years working in an atmosphere of complete peace and tranquillity. The Montessori classroom is not merely a place for individual learning. It is a vibrant community where children of different ages learn from each other. Despite such variety in ages, each one works at their own pace, unhindered by competition and working in co-operation. It is in the formative years they spend here, that the seeds of literacy, numeracy, care of self, concern for others and their immediate surroundings are sown. In this stimulating, child-oriented environment children are encouraged to explore, touch and learn without fear, respecting each child's individuality and ensuring holistic development.

With 136 students in the Secondary Section, another academic year kicked off with the belief of nurturing leaders of tomorrow with concrete human values. This year, we achieved 100% results at the S.S.C. Board Examination with Sachin Mishra scoring 89% and bagging the top scorer position.

The teachers strived to bring out the innate talents of every child by giving them an opportunity to take active part in all curricular and co-curricular activities such as cultural events, field trips, sports and art. To inculcate the discipline of learning, the students were encouraged to make projects, grasp practical knowledge of concepts in Science and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) through regular use of the science and computer laboratories. To aid learning of Science, students were led through audio-visual learning experiences and various 3D models of plants and animals. It was the interactive, experiential learning environment that drew them to climb up the ladder of knowledge. In addition, students of Standard IX and X in the Hindi and Urdu mediums also gained access to the Computer and Science Laboratories at SMS. Lessons in the laboratories enabled them to explore and strengthen foundational aspects in Science and Computers.



Warm and Personalised

On any visit to the Kherwadi Municipal School passing through the corridors you sense an excitement for learning and energy levels that are always soaring. The warm and personalised learning environment empowered the children to become well educated, compassionate citizens of tomorrow.

The new academic year had a characteristically busy start with everyone from students to teachers and social workers to parents experiencing mixed emotions of eagerness, excitement and also a bit of nervousness. Each of them entered the gate with hopes and endless dreams of a brighter future. An addition of five new classes to accommodate the increasing numbers seeking admission to the school took the enrolment to 1049 students from Pre-Primary to Standard X.

2016-17 has been an eventful year for our students on the sports field. Daily physical education activities along with active participation at zonal, district and state level sports competitions helped our young stars hone their talent and sharpen their skills. The total medal tally over the past year was 123 medals at competitions ranging from football, handball, kabbadi, langadi, rugby to chess, carom and judo.

Cultural diversity is celebrated in every classroom through activities such as reading stories, engaging in art and craft activities, cultural programmes, etc. All these activities ensured the students enjoyed an enriching curriculum which gave them opportunities for creativity and fun. The practice of reading the headlines at the assembly made the children aware of the pressing issues concerning the country as well as the world. It helped them stay abreast with current affairs and aroused their curiosity in areas of their interests.

Anne Lamott's quote – *Books help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean; they show us how to live and die*, sums up our goals for the Reading Programme. A pilot project in Standard VI was initiated to foster a love for reading and encourage independent reading for pleasure. The children were taken on a journey exploring different genres through a fun, interactive and engaging manner. Through this programme, we hope to create a generation of well-read individuals. It was a moment of great joy as we saw our very first batch of Standard X students at KMS achieve 100% results at the S.S.C Board Examination. 47% of the students secured a first class. The girls outperformed the boys by bagging all the distinctions. As the first batch of students forge ahead on their path of achieving their dreams, we are certain that they have left the school inspiring the future batches.



The Special Education Programme started in July 2014, has impacted over 200 students at the Pali Chimbai and Kherwadi Municipal Schools. Regular worksheets focused on bridging the gap between acquisition of basic reading and writing skills and the school curriculum. Children are helped with their reading and writing skills using approaches that cater to all learning styles such as visual, auditory, tactile and kinaesthetic. In this way a child strives toward independence, towards the desire and ability to 'do it myself'.

New Avenues to Explore

254 children at Aseema's Education Centre for Tribal Children in Igatpuri embarked on their journey of learning, with great aspirations to grow and soar towards their dreams.

Education is critical for developing a modern economy, a just and vibrant society. It equips young students with skills relevant for the labour market and the opportunity for social mobility. This year, we had 19 students appear for the Level A (Equivalent to Standard 3) and 5 students appear Level B (Equivalent to Standard 5) at the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Examinations. The students achieved 100% results demonstrating their progress in numeracy and literacy, their performance can be summarised below:

- Level A – 47% scored A grade and 42% scored B grade.
- Level B – 80% scored A grade and 20% scored B grade.

Celebrating the unity of mind and body; thought and action, the children and teachers commemorated International Yoga Day. The students discovered the importance of practising yoga and the various benefits of yoga were discussed, along with demonstrations by students.

Teachers and students have been seeing their new school building take shape and eagerly look forward to its inauguration. The Primary and Secondary Sections will have classrooms for Grades I – X and facilities such as Library, Science Laboratory, Computer Laboratory, Counselling Room, Medical Room, Vocational Training Room, Multipurpose hall, Sports facility and a Kitchen and Dining block. All these facilities will cater to over 500 children in the years ahead.

21 children at Aseema's Sitabai Kavji Mengal Anganwadi (ASKMA) were encouraged to become independent learners through discovery and exploration. The calm and well-ordered environment has a lot of movement and activity. The Montessori environment encourages children to make choices, ask questions and reflect. This approach ensures that children as young as 2.5 years develop confidence and learn to take responsibility for themselves and for others.



In Aseema's Education Centre at Igatpuri, children are given the opportunity to develop their individuality and achieve their full potential. We believe it is important that we develop the whole child, nurturing the academic, creative and social aspects equally.

The Aseema Approach

It is rightly said that the most valuable resource that teachers have is each other. Without collaboration their growth is limited to their own perspectives. Realising that teaching and learning go hand in hand, the on-the-job training focuses on improving the quality of teaching and learning, so that more students achieve increasing levels of proficiency. Aseema's Training Centre is the teachers' laboratory where innovative pedagogical approaches are introduced and teachers are made confident in Aseema's Approach to education.

Over the past year, the Training Centre provided training on the Activity Based Learning Approach to 72 teachers at Aseema in Mumbai and Igatpuri. It equipped teachers in using the Aseema Approach to its optimum advantage in order to achieve specific holistic goals. Apart from the continuous internal training programmes, 20 teachers were trained at Amin Girls Inter College and Nai Roshni Centres in Kanpur.

Aseema's Approach to Education is based on the belief that all children have an innate love for learning which grows and flourishes when there is a bond between the teacher and the taught. On-going reading sessions, class observations and practice sessions with the teachers throughout the year, helped the training team as well as the teachers, concretely identify their strengths and also areas for improvement.

The *How to Live* Programme, a value education model initiated at the Kherwadi Municipal School is the most precious gift we imparted to our children. Children were introduced to values such as stillness, peace, giving and happiness. By inculcating these simple yet necessary values, we hope to enable our children to lead fulfilling lives.

Emotional Well-Being

The quiet and comforting counselling rooms at Aseema have made them popular areas in the schools. The colourful Children's Box at every school assures each child that there is someone to listen to their apprehensions, to help them through their difficulties or just to have a casual conversation to lift their spirits.

The counsellors helped the students cope with their day-to-day concerns and enabled them to enhance their overall functioning. They worked individually and collectively with the teachers, social workers and parents to meet the developmental needs of every student. They developed group modules, which were structured with session goals and sub-goals targeting every age group.

For example, modules for the Pre-Primary Section were designed for early detection of developmental delays, while at the Primary level the focus was on building social skills, emotion regulation and self enhancement. Through career guidance sessions, Secondary Section students were steered towards choosing appropriate career paths and eliminating doubts and misconceptions on achieving their goals.

To ensure safety and emotional well-being, sessions on identifying and handling issues such as child sexual abuse, relationship education, gender equality, anti-bullying and empathy were organised. We believe such sessions act as a good medium for both the children and teachers to acquire information on a wide range of issues and also make the students comfortable in accessing assistance proactively. Through discussions, role-plays, audio-visuals and puppet shows all aspects of these issues were covered.

Community Work Centre (CWC)

A Brighter Future

The Community Work Centre strived to address the social and cultural barriers that exclude children from and within education. Working on a two pronged approach, our Social Workers ensured that children were enrolled in school at an appropriate age. Simultaneously, proactive measures were taken to ensure children did not drop-out of school. Through a collaborative approach the Social Workers worked with parents to ensure that academic and all round developmental needs are addressed both at home and school.

The clanking and clatter of plates, the chatter and laughter in the corridors signal the lunch hour at school. The nutrition programme is of utmost importance, as the promise of a healthy lunch for their children often acts as an incentive for the parents to send their children to school. In consultation with a nutritionist the menu is packed to ensure all necessary fibres, vitamins and nutrients are included for the healthy growth of every child. The height and weight of every child is measured twice a year and malnourished children are given additional medical attention.

At Aseema schools children learn about healthy lifestyle practices and capacity building sessions are organized for parents to ensure that nutritional needs of children are taken care of at home as well. The health camps organised at school helped in early detection of deficiencies and general health of all children.

The 'Bicycle Project' in Igatpuri was introduced to motivate tribal children, living in remote villages far from their schools, to complete their education. Lack of transport and walking for over an hour made it difficult for these youngsters to attend school, leading to them dropping out of school. Cycles were provided to 31 children in Awalkheda and the neighbouring hamlets ensuring that they pedal their way to a brighter future.

To donate online, please visit
www.aseema.org

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Cheques may be made in favour of Aseema Charitable Trust.

Fill the donor form (right) and post it with the cheque to:
Aseema Charitable Trust
G3 Josephine Apartments,
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I believe every child has the right to education and I wish to contribute.

I wish to donate for:

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Cultivate your mind
Illustrated by Dooder
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Tear Here



A Bond of Friendship

Dreams take us forward, but memories take us back. As years go by, it is the memories that each one carries within them that seem stronger all the time. This resonating thought is what binds the Aseema Alumni Programme together. Formed with the hope to reach, serve and guide our children to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between Aseema and their community, 264 alumni were nurtured and guided towards a brighter future. The Core Committee consisting of student representative from each S.S.C. batch met regularly to ensure constant communication amongst the different batches as well as to provide assistance at the various Aseema Centres. It was heart-warming to see them come back to school and share their learning experiences and build a bond of friendship with the junior batches. All these activities throughout the year have helped them become proactive and make optimal use of the opportunities and resources available to them.

Product Division

Journey Towards Self-Expression

Vincent Van Gogh once said, “If you hear a voice within you say you cannot paint then by all means paint, and the voice will be silent.” It is with this resonating thought that children at Aseema Room 13 - Art Studio embark on a journey to hone their creative abilities. Emulating artists from around the world such as Henri Matisse, Paul Cezanne, M. F. Hussain, Sakti Burman, Claude Monet and many others, students at Aseema Room 13 - Art Studio were encouraged to transcend the boundaries of their inherent artistic potential. From the bright hues of crayons, to the transparency of water colours and the distinctiveness in acrylic paints, children touched upon art in its different forms and mediums. The works of our budding artists were showcased at the 3rd Aseema Triennial Art Exhibition at the Cymroza Art Gallery. It was heartening to see the children’s excitement and delight, as they were lauded by Art Connoisseurs – Brinda Miller and Geeta Castelino for their works. Besides paintings and a vast range of products, all showcasing the work of our young artists, there were various 3 Dimensional Objects – elephants, owls and cows – beautifully adorned with the works of Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso and S. H. Raza, which attracted most attention.



The work of our budding artists has inspired 107 products ranging from office stationery to kitchen utilities, from travel necessities to other accessories. Do visit our Product Division and encourage our children on their journey towards self-expression and individuality.

Readiness For Tomorrow

We provide training and development opportunities to all our staff to better equip them for the challenges of today and readiness for tomorrow. Working together with the aim of creating stimulating learning environments for our children, 253 employees joined hands in building opportunities for our children to pursue their dreams.

The energy of the teachers and support staff is contagious, which eventually transforms into an excitement for learning amongst the children. To cater to our children's thirst for knowledge, our staff enthusiastically upgraded their skills by attending workshops on Computers, Stress Management, English, Child Rights, Child Sexual Abuse and Disaster Management. Open forums at all staff meetings have facilitated review and sharing of best practices.

Volunteers

Best Foot Forward

With the assistance of dedicated volunteers from different walks of lives, we have been inching towards enabling our children to have a better and brighter future. Our children draw lessons of inspiration from volunteers whose dedication, perseverance and determination helps them to put their best foot forward.

Our sincere thanks to all our individual and corporate volunteers and student interns for reading stories and bringing alive characters and regions; teaching subjects like Math and Science and sparking our students' imagination and logical thinking skills. From pep talks on financial management, stress management and career guidance to sports activities — all these have ensured our children gain an enriching learning experience at school. Without your support, it would have been impossible to steer ahead on our journey of learning and discovering.

We were very sad to lose our advisor Justice P. N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India. Credited for introducing Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India, Justice Bhagwati, a brilliant jurist, was a great inspiration to us. Known to the Aseema family since our inception, his presence will truly be missed.

Explore, Dream and Discover

If looking back at 20 years is gratifying, looking ahead is greatly stimulating! As we enter the next phase we are certain that new opportunities, new questions and new doors to explore await us.

Programming can be too abstract for students of Standard V, but by controlling the levels in the game and by seeing what goes wrong, students learn software programming. In the new academic year, Project Ringtones will be introduced to the children at the Kherwadi Municipal School. The student friendly programmes will help demystify the complexity of creating games and animated stories, which always amaze children.

Getting students ready for jobs of tomorrow, students of Standard VII at the Pali Chimbai Municipal will be introduced to the world of designing and 3D modelling. Fusion 360 will help the students understand every stage of designing, innovation and creation of products. Allowing the students to build a 3D model, create realistic renderings and finally generate a file ready for 3D printing.

At Aseema's Education Centre for Tribal Children in Igatpuri, we are working towards obtaining Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C.) recognition and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) accreditation. These will open various doors of higher education for our students. We will also start vocational courses for our young ones from Grade IV onwards in gardening and agriculture; and in tailoring. Construction of our Primary and Secondary Education Centre will be completed in 2018 and we cordially invite you all to the Inauguration which will take place early next year.

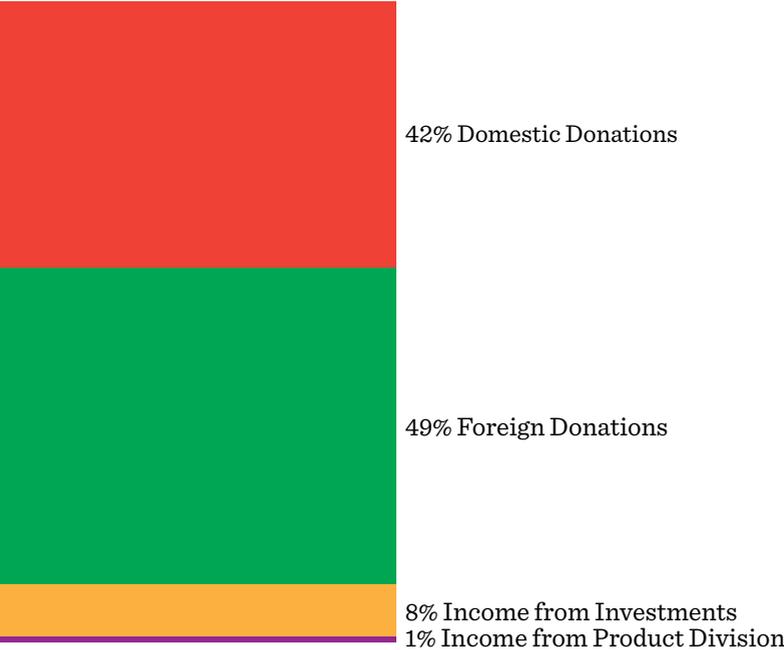
Our annual report only gives you a glimpse into the activities at our Centres. Behind the numbers are so many lives touched through your good will and generosity. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of each one of you who have contributed in making a difference and providing hope over the past 20 years to our young students. Your support has meant the world to us — many thanks and every good wish for having been there through it all!



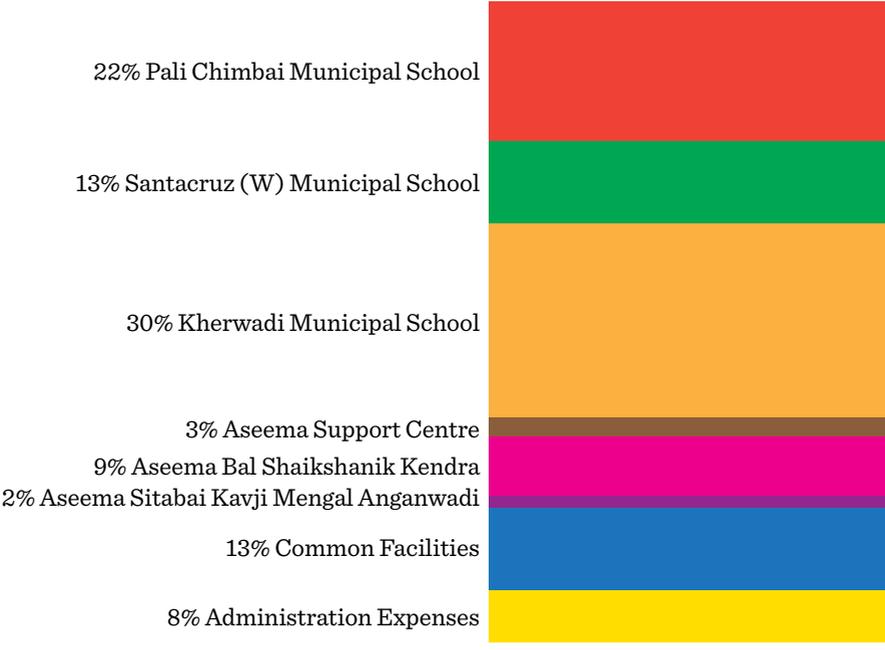
Our sincere gratitude to our generous donors for their contribution to our work. A summary of the funds received and expenses incurred in the year 2016-17 is shown in this spread.



Donations (in%)



Fund Utilization (in%)



Thank you

Monetary Donations

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Asha for Education – (SF Chapter)

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Idobro Impact Solutions

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ITC Maratha

Jamnabai Narsee School

Jasudben M. L. School

L&T Financial Services

Lanxess India Pvt. Ltd.

Little Bo-Peep Nursery & Kindergarden

Malcolm Baug

Marico Ltd.

Mega Christmas Carnival

Morgan Stanley India

Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Economics

NewGalaxy Services Ltd.

Nivea India Pvt. Ltd.

Nomura Capital India Pvt. Ltd.
 Nomura Services India Pvt. Ltd.
 Novartis Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.
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 Otters Club
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 Percept Ltd.
 Piramal Enterprises Ltd.
 Piramal Foundation
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 Polysat Plastics Pvt. Ltd.
 Promotional Products Association of India Expo
 Quintiles Research (India) Pvt. Ltd.
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 Ratnsorb Architect & Design
 Reliance Capital Ltd.
 Reliance Foundation
 Robin Age & Bright Sparks Centre for Creative Learning
 S. P. Jain Institute of Management & Research
 Sahara Star Hospitality
 Saint Gobain India Pvt. Ltd.
 Sanofi India Ltd.
 SBICAP Securities Ltd.
 Secure Giving
 Shriram Transport Finance Company Ltd.
 Singapore International School
 Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt. Ltd.
 Sophia College for Women
 St. Joseph's Convent
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 Tata Capital Ltd.
 TechProcess Payment Services Ltd.
 The Bandra Gymkhana
 The Worli Festival
 Times Glitter

Tion Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
 Titan Company Ltd.
 TransUnion CIBIL Ltd.
 United Way Mumbai
 Urban Community Development Centre
 Urban Link Consulting Pvt. Ltd.
 Viacom 18 Media Pvt. Ltd.
 Whistling Woods International
 Wipro Ltd.
 WOW Design Pvt. Ltd

Others

Aspire Designs
 Association Montessori Internationale
 Atharva AccFin Services Pvt. Ltd.
 Deepmalika Kathak Dance Institute
 Drishti
 Indian American Education Foundation
 Kapadia Education Foundation
 Kilol
 Mehli Mehta Music Foundation
 Mundle Venkatraman & Associates
 Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
 Psychotherapy Training & Research Centre
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We also extend our sincere gratitude to all our individual donors and well wishers who have contributed so generously to Aseema.

Design by Sanjay Basavaraju
 Photographs of children by Hemal Davda
 Printed at Silverpoint, Mumbai, India

NAME OF THE PUBLIC TRUST:- "ASEEMA CHARITABLE TRUST "		
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017		
PARTICULARS	FY 2016-17 Amt in INR	FY 2016-17 Amt in INR
INCOME		
DONATIONS IN CASH RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR		5,72,27,370
SAVINGS BANK INTEREST	4,85,491	
FD INTEREST	NIL	4,85,491
TOTAL INCOME (A)		5,77,12,861
EXPENDITURE		
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES	19,992	
EXPENDITURE ON THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING, AND ACQUISITION OF FURNITURE/FIXTURES FOR STREET AND UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN	6,17,15,627	
	2,87,64,103	9,04,99,722
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (B)		9,04,99,722
NET SURPLUS(DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO THE BALANCE SHEET (A)-(B)		(3,27,86,861)

PER OUR REPORT ATTACHED FOR MUNDLE VENKATRAMAN & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS FORM REG NO 112813W  SHASHANK MUNDLE (M NO. 014172) PARTNER PLACE: MUMBAI DATE: 20/11/2017		FOR ASEEMA CHARITABLE TRUST  DILBUR PARAKH CHAIRPERSON TRUSTEE/CHAIRPERSON ASEEMA CHARITABLE TRUST
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Realize human potential
through quality education

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